

We claim:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 detecting a power management event; and
3 changing a display update property for a video display in response to the
4 power management event.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the display update property comprises a
2 screen resolution.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the display update property comprises a
2 pixel depth.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the display update property comprises a
2 refresh rate.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the power management event
2 includes detecting a change in a power source from AC power to DC power and
3 wherein changing the display update property includes decreasing the display
4 update property.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the power management event
2 includes detecting a change in a power source from DC power to AC power and
3 wherein changing the display update property includes increasing the display update
4 property.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the power management event
2 includes detecting a decrease in a power level of a battery past a predetermined
3 threshold and wherein changing the display update property includes decreasing the
4 display update property.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the power management event
2 includes detecting an increase in a power level of a battery past a predetermined
3 threshold and wherein changing the display update property includes increasing the
4 display update property.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if a policy exists for
2 the power management event and wherein changing the display update property
3 includes changing the display update property in accordance with the policy.

1 10. A system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a graphics controller coupled to the processor; and
4 a frame buffer coupled to the graphics controller, said frame buffer having a
5 size corresponding to a screen resolution and a pixel depth;
6 wherein the processor is operable to:
7 detect a power management event; and
8 change the screen resolution in response to the power management
9 event.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from AC power to DC power and further wherein the
3 processor is operable to decrease the screen resolution.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from AC power to DC power and further wherein the
3 processor is operable to decrease the pixel depth.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from DC power to AC power and wherein the processor is
3 operable to increase the screen resolution.

- 1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from DC power to AC power and further wherein the
3 processor is operable to increase the pixel depth.
- 1 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes a
2 decrease in a power level of a battery past a predetermined threshold and wherein
3 the processor is operable to decreasing the screen resolution.
- 1 16. The system of claim 10, wherein the power management event includes an
2 increase in a power level of a battery past a predetermined threshold and wherein
3 the processor is operable to increase the screen resolution.
- 1 17. The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operable to
2 determine if a policy exists for the power management event and wherein the
3 processor is operable to change the screen resolution in accordance with the policy.
- 1 18. The system of claim 10 further comprising:
2 a memory controller; and
3 a system memory coupled to the memory controller;
4 wherein the frame buffer resides in the system memory.
- 1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the graphics controller and the memory
2 controller are integrated into a single chipset.
- 1 20. A system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a frame buffer; and
4 a graphics controller coupled to the processor and the frame buffer, said
5 graphics controller updating a video display from the frame buffer according to a
6 refresh rate;

7 wherein the processor is operable to:
8 detect a power management event; and
9 change the refresh rate in response to the power management event.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from AC power to DC power and wherein the processor is
3 operable to decrease the refresh rate.

1 22 The system of claim 20, wherein the power management event includes a
2 change in a power source from DC power to AC power and wherein the processor is
3 operable to increase the refresh rate.

1 23. A graphics controller comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a frame buffer coupled to the processor;
4 wherein the processor is operable to:
5 receive a power management event; and
6 change a screen resolution for a video display refreshed from the
7 frame buffer in response to the power management event.

1 24. The graphics controller of claim 23, wherein the power management event
2 includes an a change in a power source from AC power to DC power and wherein
3 the processor is operable to decrease the screen resolution.

1 25. The graphics controller of claim 24, wherein the processor is further
2 operable to decrease a pixel depth for the frame buffer.

1 26. The graphics controller of claim 23, wherein the power management event
2 includes a change in a power source from DC power to AC power and wherein the
3 processor is operable to increase the screen resolution.

1 27. The graphics controller of claim 26, wherein the processor is further
2 operable to increase a pixel depth for the frame buffer.

1 28. A machine-readable medium having machine executable instructions for
2 performing a method comprising:
3 detecting a power management event; and
4 changing a display update property for a video display in response to the
5 power management event.

1 29. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the display update
2 property comprises a screen resolution.

1 30. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the display update
2 property comprises a pixel depth.

1 31. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the display update
2 property comprises a refresh rate.

1 32. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the detecting the power
2 management event includes detecting a change in a power source from AC power to
3 DC power and wherein changing the display update property includes decreasing
4 the display update property.

1 33. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the detecting the power
2 management event includes detecting a change in a power source from DC power to
3 AC power and wherein changing the display update property includes increasing the
4 display update property.

1 34. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the detecting the power
2 management event includes detecting a decrease in a power level of a battery past a
3 predetermined threshold and wherein changing the display update property includes
4 decreasing the display update property.

1 35. The machine readable medium of claim 28, wherein the detecting the power
2 management event includes detecting an increase in a power level of a battery past a
3 predetermined threshold and wherein changing the display update property includes
4 increasing the display update property.

1 36. The machine readable medium of claim 28, further comprising determining
2 if a predefined policy exists for the power management event and wherein changing
3 the display update property includes changing the display update property in
4 accordance with the predefined policy.